



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.**

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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Litchfield, NH 03052

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### Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, May 11, 2023 – NH Fire Academy, Concord, NH

The meeting was called to order at 0914 hours by Chief Best.

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was requested for departed members.

Director Cutting welcomed all to the Academy.

Chief Best introduced Chief Carrier who spoke on the FY 24 budget. A MOTION (Sitar/Fraitzl) to approve the budget carried unanimously.

#### INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

**Special Guests:** Assistant Commissioner of Safety Lavoie was introduced;

**Minutes** of the April Annual meeting have been posted. A MOTION (S. Buxton/Thomas ) to accept carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** April reports have not been posted. Approval will be deferred to June..

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** n/a

**Life Memberships:** n/a

#### **President's Report: (Best) –**

- North Country Fire Chiefs and DOS meeting- Brent & Jay attended
- SB-71 Cancer expansion bill passed the House and headed to the Governors Desk
- SB-207 Mental Health bill- NHAFC supporting this
- HB1 & HB2 budget bills- NHAFC sent a letter to the Senate Finance Committee asking to support the FMO & NHFA budgets as passed by the House.

- Trauma services coordinating board position- filled
- Manchester Chief Cashin MFD to overview their new Cancer Screening Program
- BOD voted to establish two working committees to help support the mission and strategic plan of the NHAFC. A request for interest will go out from Brent in the near future...
  - A professional development committee- 5-6 members
  - High level leadership training- an annual program
    - Potentially 3-4 annual 1 hour professional development classes prior to a regular monthly membership meeting
  - An annual 1/2 day weekend retreat training and member fellowship
  - A communications committee- 3-4 members
- Help with social media and messaging from the NHAFC

### **Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –**

- Next board meeting will be Wednesday, June 7 and will be in person at the Primex.
- This month's meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NH Fire Academy.
- The June 8 meeting will be in Brookline, NH hosted by Chief Corey and feature a home-cooked roast beef dinner.
- In July, the BOD meeting date falls on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Should we move it to the 12<sup>th</sup>? The regular will be at the Atlantic Grill in Rye on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- August 2 (Wednesday) you are all invited to Litchfield for our usual outdoor meeting and the regular meeting on the 10th will be in Gorham at the Town and Country.
- I attended the North Country Chiefs' Roundtable at the Burton Academy on April 20.
- Chief Meredith Lund will be retiring this summer and congratulations were extended to her.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Emanuel) –**

Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District is hosting New Haven fire chief John Alston as a national speaker on May 25, 2023 at UNH. <https://chiefjohnalstonseminar.rsvpify.com>

The Seacoast Chiefs have been working with the Director of NHFST and EMS regarding the NH Administrative rules about course registration and pricing for NHFA programs/classes for non-NH residents or non-NH fire departments. Mutual aid partners from Maine and Massachusetts are permitted to attend NHFA programs if there is seating availability and they will be charged out of state pricing.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** If you have questions about a bill, reach out to us, and we can either provide an answer or request follow up information from our lobbyist.

- **HB 2 (budget trailer bill)** – The NH state budget is comprised of 2 bills, HB 1 which includes traditional budget line items and HB 2 which includes all the changes to law necessary to implement the budget. The House passed both bills last week with a number of amendments. Amendments included the language from HB 436. HB 436 was originally introduced to eliminate the “middle tier” in Group II. The language makes changes to current law to phase out the differences between those who were grandfathered prior to the 2011 changes and those who were not yet vested when the changes were made. In addition, there are appropriations made to ensure that employers do not experience additional costs. It is unclear if this provision will be approved by the Senate Finance Committee. There is language to implement an increase Medicaid rates for ambulance services.

Also, earlier this week, funding was added to create a law enforcement, professional firefighters, and EMT career development, recruitment and retention program. We will see if the language makes through the rest of the process. The language is similar to SB 153 which NHAFC supported earlier this year.
- **SB 71 (Workers’ Compensation for Firefighters with Cancer/Committee to Study Annual Cancer Screening)** – NHAFC supported the bill in the Senate where it passed without too much debate. The hearing in the House Executive Departments and Administration was held last month. Chief Best attended and provided testimony. The committee had a number of questions regarding the potential impacts of the proposed expansion of cancer coverage. Ultimately, the committee voted to pass the bill with an amendment. The amendment removed the committee to study annual cancer screenings. The Senate will now consider the revisions from the House.
- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as introduced. Marshal Toomey, NHAFC, and the bill sponsor continued to work on language to balance the concerns of access to a property. Ultimately, the Senate adopted an amendment which requires local land use board to give “...due consideration to any written recommendations of the municipal fire chief...” regarding issues involving width, vertical clearance, grade, suitability of road surface, bridges, dead ends, and ability to pass/turn around. The Senate passed the amendment last month. We are now awaiting the House consideration of the changes.
- **HB 564 (code updates)** – NHAFC supported the bill in the House and Senate. This bill ratifies amendments to the state building code and fire code approved by the state building code review board, ratifies amendments to the state fire code approved by the Fire Marshal and state board of fire contract, and adds a fire protection engineer to the state board of fire control. The bill has passed both bodies and we are awaiting action by Governor Sununu.
- **HB 461 (Elimination by Political Subdivision Employers of a Retirement System Position)** This bill would require political subdivisions to

obtain an analysis from the retirement system and continue to pay unfunded accrued liability contributions when eliminating or transferring an employment position from full time to part time. The bill passed the House rather easily. At the Senate hearing, the bill was opposed by both the NH Municipal Association and NH Association of Counties. Generally, both argued that elimination of a full time position (like Fire or Police Chief) could be made for a number of reasons. Further, the potential financial penalties assessed to the employers would be significant. They thought the purview of the decisions about full or part time position should remain with the employers. The Senate will vote on an amendment that passed the committee which creates a study committee (1 Senator and 4 House members) which would "...study the elimination by political subdivision employers under RSA 100-A of a retirement system eligible employment position." If the Senate approves the amendment, the House will have to consider the change.

### IAFC Safety Stand Down 2023

The 2023 Safety Stand Down takes place June 18-24 and focuses on lithium-ion battery response with the theme "Lithium-Ion Batteries: Are you Ready?" [Five daily focus areas](#) highlight different aspects of this critical safety topic. Additional planning materials and resources will be added to this web site leading up to Safety Stand Down.

Taking place each year during the third full week of June, Safety Stand Down highlights critical safety, health, and survival issues for fire and emergency services personnel. Departments are asked to suspend all non-emergency activities during the week to focus their attention on safety and health education efforts. A week is provided to ensure that all duty shifts can participate.

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<https://www.safetystanddown.org/>

### NIOSH National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer is live

The National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer is the largest effort ever undertaken to understand and reduce risk of cancer among U.S. firefighters. NIOSH is recruiting firefighters to join the NFR so that we can better understand the link between firefighting and cancer. Firefighters are exposed to chemicals on the fireground that could increase their risk of developing cancer. There are many unanswered questions about how cancer risk may vary across our nation's diverse fire service.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry.html>

Emanuel will be representing the IAFC at USFA/FEMA joint initiatives on Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Safety Culture/Behavioral Health in the fire service on May 17-18, 2023.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Watkins) –**

**Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) –** No report

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) –** Applications will be accepted shortly.

### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)**

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

We currently have 5 full-time vacancies and 3 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Full-time Fire Investigator (2 positions, conditional offers extended for both positions)
- Full-time State Building Inspector
- Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector
- Full-time Hazmat Coordinator
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part-time Outreach & Education Specialist
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

- John Mahoney joined our staff as a part-time Fire Protection Specialist
- Lorrinda Estabrook joined our staff as a part-time NFIRS Coordinator
- Bert Ledoux joined our staff as a part-time Fire Protection Specialist

#### **Legislation:**

Below are some of the bills we are watching:

HB 265 relative to municipal property tax relief for installation of fire suppression systems

Status: ITL

HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits

Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

HB 564 relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code

Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

HB 477 To Prohibit Municipal Inspections Of Owner-occupied Units Of Multi-unit Housing.

Municipalities

Status: ITL

SB 54 permitting the use of certain refrigerants that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act

Status: Passed Senate with Amendment, In House Committee

Removes authority of state building code to allow new refrigerants not currently covered in the code.

SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers

Status: Passed Senate with Amendment

### **Board of Fire Control:**

The Board of Fire Control and the SFMO staff have started the review of the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. The goal is to have a package ready for legislative action in 2024.

### **Foam Take-back Program:**

We continue to work with DES to launch the foam take-back program. Due to contracting and permitting challenges the launch of this program project for late spring/early summer 2023. An important consideration in the program is the best and safest disposal methods to destroy the PFAS chemicals. The latest inventory is approximately 9,600 gallons. We are working with DES to identify collection points in each county.

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In the month of April, we received 27 incident notifications resulting in 14 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 16 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

### **New cases (synopsis of some of our cases are listed below):**

- On April 1, investigators responded to New London for two condominium fires suspected to be arson. This investigation is ongoing.
- On April 4, investigators responded to Plymouth for a suspicious fire later determined to be accidental.

- On April 10, investigators responded to assist Manchester Fire Department with a house fire resulting in serious injury. The cause of the fire is undetermined but believed to be accidental.
- On April 11, investigators responded to Epsom for a second fire at a vacant house that was previously set on fire in January. Both fires are considered to be arson.
- On April 15, investigators responded to Raymond for a house fire. The cause was undetermined but likely accidental.
- On April 20, an investigator responded to Barrington to assist with a fire investigation for a house under construction. The cause was likely accidental.
- On April 23, investigators responded to Weare for a house fire. The cause was accidental.
- On April 23, an investigator assisted Merrimack Fire Department with interviews related to an accidental house fire.
- On April 24, an investigator responded to Winchester for two motor-vehicle fires. The cause was undetermined but likely accidental.
- On April 26, investigators responded to Sunapee for a vehicle and structure fire. The cause is undetermined but suspected to be arson due to criminal circumstances involving the theft of the truck.
- On April 26, investigators also responded to Campton for a structure fire. One subject admitted to setting the fire and was arrested by Campton Police.
- On May 1, an investigator responded to Litchfield to investigate a structure fire that occurred on April 30. The cause was likely accidental.

**Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:**

- There were 2 fatal fire incidents in April and one non-fire fatality that the BOI investigated.
  - A man died in Chester on April 10 in proximity to an outside brush fire. His death was determined to be natural and not related to the fire.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a house fire in Meredith on April 17. The FMO responded to the scene to investigate. The cause of the fire was undetermined but not suspected to be arson.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle fire in Rollinsford on April 27. The FMO investigated the fire and determined it was the result of a crash and accidental.

**Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

- There were 3 IGL canine deployments in April.
- IGL canine teams performed demonstrations in Jaffrey, Plymouth, Northumberland, Warner and Concord.

- Both IGL canine teams were in the process of completing their annual recertification.

#### **Youth Firesetter:**

- There were no youth fire setter assessments in April; however, two potential YFS cases were reported that we will investigate.

#### **Arrests:**

- FMO assisted the Campton Fire and Police by performing a fire investigation after their arrest of Jonas Gurrera for arson on April 26.

#### **Court:**

- An investigator testified in a deposition for a 2021 arson case from Webster.
- The Merrimack County Attorney's Office reached a plea deal for an incident where an investigator was scheduled to testify, involving a youth being burned at a campfire.

#### **Training/Committees:**

- Two investigators attended the International Association of Arson Investigators' (IAAI) International Training Conference in North Carolina.
- Two investigators are currently in the fire academy recruit school.

### **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

#### **State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of April:

- Building: 26
- Electrical: 15
- Plumbing: 4
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 7
- Fire Protection: 6
- Fire Alarm: 21

#### **Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:**

We initiated 24 educational and 11 healthcare plan reviews, completed 95 inspections and 166 technical consults in the month of April.

#### **Variance Requests:**



We processed 10 variance requests in the month of April.

## **BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

### **Hazardous Materials:**

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO

supervisor. Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire

departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

In the month of April, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator continued to attend the regional Haz Mat team trainings to offer support and provide updates regarding statewide Haz Mat response. He also continued to work with the regional Haz Mat teams and HSEM on planning a Wide Area Monitoring Exercise for this spring.

We continue to work on Tier II reporting and associated follow-ups when deficiencies are identified.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the National Association of State Title Three Program Officials Conference. This conference focuses on the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), including Tier II reporting by facilities and operations of State Emergency Response Commissions and Local Emergency Planning Committees.

Further discussions and work are ongoing to evaluate the hazmat problem and funding sources.

### **Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:**

Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources.

### **Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:**

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. We held a North Country Roundtable at the Burton Fire & EMS Training Facility on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We have scheduled a Souhegan Area Roundtable for September 13<sup>th</sup> in Mont Vernon.

### **Incident Reporting:**

If you don't already have an account to securely transfer to and receive files from the SFMO, please register for free today! More info included in this link: [SFTP2020bulletin.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#).

We are asking that fire departments please submit their 2022 NFIRS data as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion. The deadline is fast approaching!

Have you looked at your .err files lately? These are important files that you likely receive on a monthly basis that contain invalid incidents, a.k.a. error messages. We can help you through the process so that you can resubmit any invalid incidents and receive full credit. Please contact us at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov).

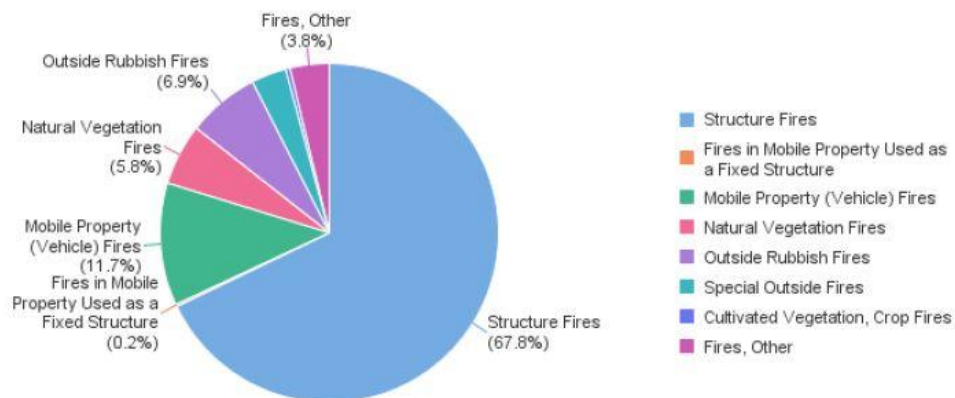
We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program, available free of charge, for incident reporting. If you are interested in having a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email [NHESR@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHESR@dos.nh.gov).

We are monitoring changes proposed by the USFA to the NFIRS system. We understand a substantial redo of the system as we know it is in the works. We anticipate more details will be available in late spring 2023.

If you have questions or you are having difficulties, please reach out to the NHFIRS data team using the following email: [NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov).

### [NH Fire Incidents Reported YTD 2023:](#)

Fire Incident Type Category Summary

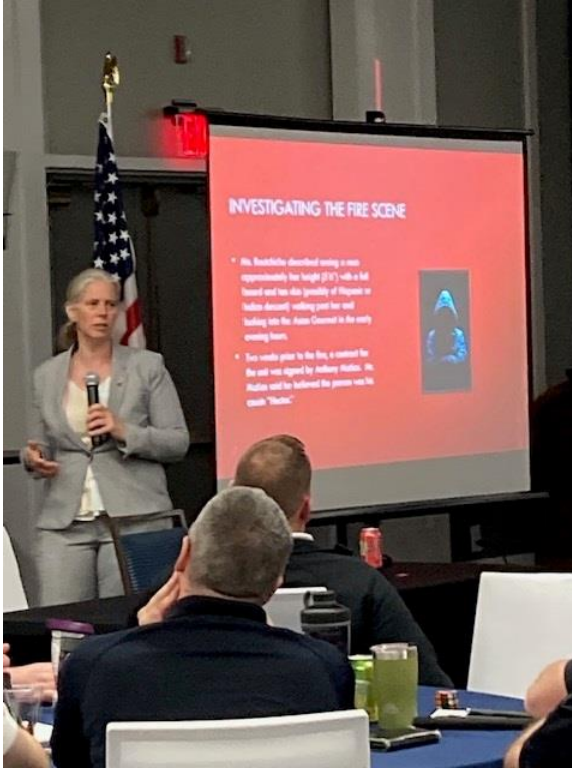


**Outreach Events:**

On April 8, 2023 members of the NHFMO and Sparky attended the Annual State House Easter Egg Hunt in Concord. Sparky enjoyed meeting everyone who attended and handing out easter eggs to lots of children in attendance!



On April 13, 2023 District Chief Shana Clark presented a Bureau of Investigations case study at the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association Conference in Waterbury, CT.



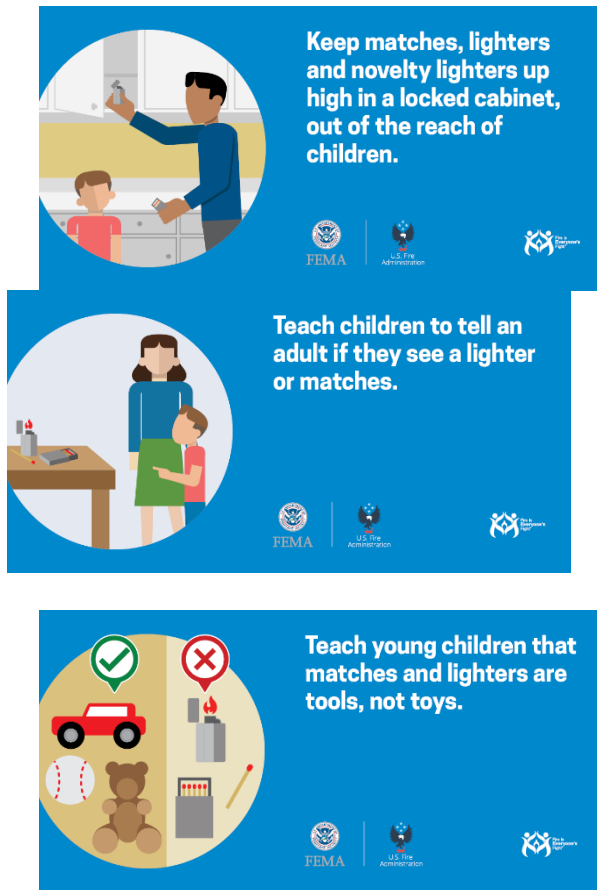
On April 21, 2023 Deputy Adam Fanjoy & K9 Anthem did a brief overview of the office and the Bureau of Investigations and a canine demonstration for the NH Association of Insurance Agents.

Members of the NHFMO also attended four career and internship fairs at Groveton High School, Conant High School, the University of New Hampshire and Plymouth State University in the month of April.



### **Public Education:**

Arson Awareness Week is May 7-13, 2023. The theme this year is Understanding and Mitigating Youth Firesetting Issues. Youth firesetting is a problem throughout the United States and around the world. Fire misuse behaviors in children may be attributed to issues such as curiosity or experimentation, underlying struggles with impulse control, emotional regulation, social/interpersonal skills, childhood trauma or other behavioral health conditions. Children observe adults using matches and lighters but may not be taught about important fire safety practices. They may also observe unsafe uses of fire in media, videos and gaming.



Please see the following links for additional information:

National Fire Academy Youth Firesetting Prevention Courses

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/search?&forget=1&courseKeywords=firesetting>

Prevent Youth Firesetting World Flyer

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/prevent\\_youth\\_firesetting\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/prevent_youth_firesetting_flyer.pdf)

Youth Firesetting.....What Can You Do? Brochure

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_332b.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_332b.pdf)

***Training Opportunities:***

The NHFMO provided three trainings in the month of April. Please see the below upcoming training opportunities for the month of May:

**Fire Investigation for the First Responder**

*This seminar familiarizes students (fire, police and EMS) with the roles and responsibilities of first responders and how they relate to the basic principles of arson detection and the proper procedures for scene security, evidence preservation and documentation.*

**May 18, 2023**

**Jaffrey Fire Department**

**6:00-8:30PM**

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

**2020 National Electric Code with NH Changes**

*In this class we will review the newly adopted 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) NFPA 70, including the 19 New Hampshire changes. This training will also include the basic electrical inspection concerns seen in existing and new buildings.*

**May 25, 2023**

**Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem**

**6:00-9:00PM**

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

**Fire Investigation for the First Responder (Limited to 50 attendees)**

*This seminar familiarizes students (fire, police and EMS) with the roles and responsibilities of first responders and how they relate to the basic principles of arson detection and the proper procedures for scene security, evidence preservation and documentation.*

**May 30, 2023**

**New Castle Recreation Center, 301 Wentworth Rd., New Castle**

**6:00-8:30PM**

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at [stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov](mailto:stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov) if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

**Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Cutting)**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Personnel**

- We have made conditional offers for our remaining open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions and are working through the hiring process.
- Don Himsel has been promoted to Program Specialist IV (Education Technology Manager) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we will begin the process to fill his position.

- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Fire Officer, Promotional Coordinator, Instructor, Swift Water and EMS Initial Programs are open and we are seeking applicants.

### Grants

- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project is proceeding with obtaining necessary permits and completion of the construction documents in preparation of advertising the project for bids.
  - As we continue to overcome the challenge of significant price increases in construction costs over the last year we have begun the process to move forward with phase one of the project. Land clearing is expected to begin this fall/winter with site work starting in the spring of 2024.
- We are working with the Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support.
- We have not yet received a response on our application for a grant for \$471,000 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding available at the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to fund a comprehensive campaign designed to recruit firefighters and EMS providers in our state.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.

### Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The full schedule for 2023 also includes a meeting November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - As part of the standard review process following two course deliveries, or one year of a program delivery, after a curriculum revision, the Commission and Division staff review each curriculum. This analysis was completed for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor I and II and the Commission voted to approve the recommended changes.
  - The Visiting Committee for the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program has been paused at this time.
  - The Technical Rescue Program – Rope Operations and Technician have completed their work and presented to the Curriculum committee. The full FSTC has approved the written comment period to open through July 19, 2023 for public comment on the proposed changes to the following curriculums: Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician. Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/>. Information on the proposed



curriculum can be found at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/boards/index.html>

- The Commission voted at the May meeting to establish a Visiting Committee for the NFPA 472 Hazmat Materials Awareness, Operations, Decontamination and Technician programs which will be seated by the Commission and begin their work this summer. Anyone interested please submit your information by July 19, 2023 at <https://nhfa-ems.com/visiting-committee-membership-request-form/>
- The Commission approved the amended Fire rules as recommended by Administrative Rules Sub-Committee relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations. We will begin the process to move through the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules which will include public input.
- Assistant Commissioner Steven Lavoie has been appointed as the Commissioner of Safety designee to the Commission following the retirement of Assistant Commissioner Rick Bailey.

### Special Projects

- We upgraded the current Online Learning Academy to a new platform in early 2023. We have identified some technical issues that have impacted certain programs and are working towards a resolution including a redesign of course content with an improved student experience through updated navigation, orientation, resources and student surveys.
- The tuition for courses for FY 24 conducted by the Division have been posted to our website and can be found at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/CourseCostFY24.pdf>
- We continue the analysis of current standard operating procedures and are working to implement numerous new policies.

### Facilities

- A vendor has been selected to complete the “B” building upgrades that are needed and we are working through the approval process with the Governor and Executive Council.
- We continue to work with NH Public Works on getting the design and engineering complete to repair the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus. Estimates for repair were approximately \$260,000.
- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the dormitory building.

### Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The new legislative session is ongoing and we are tracking a number of bills. A few include:
  - HB 2 - Budget, Naloxone licensing and Fire and EMS fund
  - HB 183 - Relative to Employment of Retired Firefighters at the Fire Academy (retained by the Committee)
  - HB 373 - Relative to Billing for Ambulance Services (retained by the Committee)
  - SB 71 - Relative to workers' compensation for firefighter cancer disease and establishing a commission to study the implementation of optional annual cancer screenings (House amended to exclude study commission)
  - SB 153 - Relative to establishing a First Responder Career Development, Recruitment and Retention program (tabled)
  - SB 204 - Requiring Trauma Kits to be Available in State-Owned Buildings
  - SB 268 - Allowing for Pre-Hospital Treatment and Transportation for Operational Canines
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum.

### Outreach

- We continue finalizing the Spring of 2024 training program schedule.
- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chiefs and EMD's.
  - Souhegan Mutual Aid group is planned for September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Mental Health & Resiliency

- Difficult Conversations: Preventing Responder Suicide and Promoting Resilience - May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - This will be a three-part presentation. The first two speakers will discuss suicide from the perspective of a family whose spouse was a career firefighter and completed suicide in 2020 as well as a clinical social worker who has specifically worked in the mental health field developing suicide prevention and postintervention programs. The final speaker will conduct a workshop where participants should expect to leave with a better understanding of how stress and trauma affect first responder performance and be equipped with techniques to build resilience and initiate difficult conversations. Objectives to be met: 1. Identify the warning signs for mental health issues and suicide risk 2. Understand the barriers to help seeking 3. Learn evidence-based strategies for suicide prevention 4. Initiate an #IWillListen / #IWillTalk conversation 5. Identify at least five resources for

officers in your agency 6. Explore resilience and healthy habits 7. Employ a R.A.N.G.E. of five resilience skills.

- Responder Strong Train-the-Trainer – May 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Responder Strong program is a Train the Trainer program for Police, Fire, EMS and dispatchers, to better understand behavioral health and to gain tools and resources to support our peers.
- Trauma, Resiliency and Wellness presented by Dr. Nicole Sawyer – June 28<sup>th</sup> – Keene Middle School

### Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
  - Understanding CPAT - Laconia at the Merrill Fay Arena on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Prep for Women: Women in the Fire Service, Getting Your Career Started – Laconia at the Merrill Fay Arena on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Recruit & Re-energize Your Department presented by Haverhill Fire Chief Blanchette – Haverhill July 13<sup>th</sup>
  - A Veteran's Recruitment Event is being planned for September 16<sup>th</sup> to be held here at the Concord campus.

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
  - The Spring Recruit School is ongoing.
  - The Fall Recruit program will begin on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The LRCC I/II completed their class on May 4<sup>th</sup> with 11 graduates.
  - The Brookline I/II combined classes are ongoing.
  - The Bethlehem and Kingston classes are ongoing and are scheduled to test this month.
- Firefighter II
  - Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid Association class in New Hampton has completed their class with 21 graduates.
- Technical Rescue
  - Swift Water Level II begins in Lincoln beginning April 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Swift Water Level I begins in Littleton on May 12<sup>th</sup> and Bedford on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Driver Operator
  - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles – Classes in Henniker and Center Ossipee have been completed and the Chester class begins May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ARFF
  - Airport Firefighter – was held at the Concord campus on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Airport Firefighter recertification programs continue on weekly basis throughout May.

- Facilities and Prop Usage
  - Maine Specialty Dogs concluded the 2023 program held at the Concord campus in April.
  - Seabrook Station Fire Brigade has begun their 6 weeks of annual recertification on our campus.
  - The SCBA trailer and Air Trailer were utilized at the Twin State Fire School on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Forcible Entry prop was utilized by the Tuftonboro Fire Department on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Online Training Courses
  - “Fire Mobilization” is a free 1-hour program that supports the NH Federation of Mutual Aid “Fire (& EMS) Mobilization Plan”
  - “Fire Service Communications” is a free 1-hour program.
- A delivery analysis of the Firefighter I and II programs has been completed and identified areas of improvement are being made.
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>. Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

### Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and delivery is expected in the June of 2023.
- The new Engine bid has been awarded to Rosenbauer. At this time, it appears the chassis will be available in early 2023 with an anticipated timeframe for completion later this fall.

## **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - Instructor I - Monadnock Hospital began May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Instructor I – Concord July 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor II – Virtual August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Instructor Professional Development
  - Competency Based Education – June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
  - Fire Officer I began in Concord March 23<sup>rd</sup> and is near completion.
  - Fire Officer II – Virtual June 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fire Officer I – Keene August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Inspector Programs

- Fire Inspector I began at the Bethlehem campus on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Fire Inspector II began at the Concord campus on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Investigator
  - The 2023 offering begins August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
  - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist begins at the Concord campus on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Command and Control of Incident Operations (6 day) began at the Concord campus on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Incident Safety Officer begins in Portsmouth on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Incident Command
  - ICS 300 – Nashua on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
  - The next offering will be held in Laconia on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - This program has been very successful and highly requested.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

### Instructors

- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at [Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov) or 603-223-4213.
- State fire instructor renewals are due by June 30. If any instructor has questions or concerns, contact us.

### CPAT

- The 2023 CPAT orientation and testing will be held at the Laconia Ice Arena May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>. CPAT testing will be held at the NH Fire Academy in September.

### Testing

- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division with vendor presentations held the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. When final, this will enable us to begin computer-based testing and eliminate the paper method.

## **BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board and the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meetings will take place at 0900 and 1300, respectively, on May 18<sup>th</sup> in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
  - At their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board voted to recommend that the Department of

Safety not declare a Public Safety Incident in lieu of the Public Health Incident for purposes of reducing the number of providers required on an ambulance.

- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on June 21<sup>st</sup> in classroom 2 in the administration building.
- The first meeting of the Privacy Committee as established in RSA 153-A:35 II was scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1000 however will need to be rescheduled.

### Operations

- Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been drafted and we continue to work with the Department of Safety legal unit to complete these.
- The Criminal History Records Information wait times have been averaging approximately 3 weeks.
- Approximately 511 EMS providers did not renew their EMS license in the last cycle.

### Courses/Programs

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider
  - MIH for Agency Leadership was held May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - This seminar explored the positive impact a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program can have on these and other system challenges, discuss the differences between the traditional 911 program and a MIH program and explore cases from NH's active MIH programs. This seminar was for any agency chief looking to explore the "Why", "What" and "How" of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program in NH.
  - Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider began May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - The MIH-P continuing education program consists of classes developed to equip experienced EMS providers with the skills they need to succeed in a mobile integrated healthcare program.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - The spring class in Brookline, Concord and Littleton begins May 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The fall class begins September 20<sup>th</sup> at Monadnock Hospital, Concord and in Bethlehem.
  - The winter 2024 class begins January 10<sup>th</sup> in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
- EMS Continuing Education
  - NCCP – Trauma – Concord on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Introduction to Prehospital Ultrasound for Paramedics – Concord on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Obstetrics Abnormal Delivery – Concord on May 20<sup>th</sup> and in Bethlehem June 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Prevention in Partnership – Virtual May 31<sup>st</sup>
- The Cost of Code 3: An Evidence-Based Look at Lights and Siren Usage – Concord June 7<sup>th</sup> and virtual June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- NCCP-Trauma and Operations – Bethlehem on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Trauma Arrest – Concord July 5<sup>th</sup> and Virtual July 20<sup>th</sup>
- NCCP-Medical – Concord July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Detailed Documentation – Concord August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Virtual August 17<sup>th</sup>
- The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911 – Virtual August 30<sup>th</sup>
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
  - An open enrollment EMS in the Warm Zone RTF Concepts is planned for May 20<sup>th</sup> in Henniker.
  - These courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.

### Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0.
- The Public Health Incident declared by Acting Commissioner Weaver of the NH Department of Health and Human Services has not been extended beyond May 11, 2023 and will expire then. All Covid-19 Emergency Protocols and any modifications to ambulance staffing requirements are no longer allowed.
- The development of Trauma Rules is still underway and continues to make progress.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

### Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH
  - Work continues on the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), which is an extension of the TEMSIS system. If you would like to start using the system, please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
  - A Fire User Group meeting was held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. These meetings serve as a forum to collaborate, share challenges and find solutions in the NHESR system. These meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.
  - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.

- In April, 5,340 incidents were entered into NHESR from 77 departments.
- Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or [joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov](mailto:joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov).
- RespondNH
  - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- TEMSIS
  - 20,054 EMS incidents were entered into the system for April and 89,159 incidents to date.
  - Preparation for NEMSIS 3.5 is ongoing.

#### Compliance

- There are currently over 35 active investigations and ongoing cases.

#### Preparedness and Special Projects

- Work continues on our Division COOP project within the Department of Safety.
- Our Division has a Preparedness and Special Projects Coordinator who is available to assist communities with planning efforts for multiple and mass casualty incidents.
- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

#### ***Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis –***

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief) – No Report**

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – No report**

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton)**

Updates on Division Priorities:

- We continue to work towards our 2023 Goals.
  - This will include.
    - i. Increased efforts for Training, Exercise and Development



1. We are working to develop a strategic vision to meet the needs of the State of New Hampshire around active threat.
  - ii. Implementation of a Community Services Branch
    1. Inclusive of a stakeholder liaison group
  - iii. Continued review of procedures to make sure we are providing you efficient delivery of the Public Assistance process.
  - iv. We are working to improve the EMPG application and administrative process. We look forward to streamline and providing communities a better overall grant process.
- Happy to announce that Governor Sununu and the Executive Council have confirmed Megan Hoskins as Executive Director for HSEM. We look forward to working with NHAFC to move your goals forward.
  - Public Assistance
    - FEMA will be starting the Public Assistance process for the December 2022 winter storm.
    - We are anticipating submitting a Disaster Declaration to President Biden for the March 2023 snowstorm.
    - We continue to evaluate and monitor damages for from the May flooding. As of this date no determination if a formal Disaster Declaration will be requested.

**Federal Government:**

- The COVID-19 emergency ends on May 11, 2023
- We continue to monitor and plan for potential impacts of increased boarder crossing as Title 42 will end on May 11, 2023.
- We are reviewing the impact adopting FEMA's Public Assistance Simplified procedures process.

**Other items of importance:**

- Internally we have started to prepare for the upcoming NASCAR and airshow events.
- Planning continues for a renovation to the State EOC
- Participating in PEASE Airshow planning
- Participating in planning regarding 2024 Solar Eclipse

**EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) –**

The committee met on April 19, 20223

- The Data Sub-committee is finalizing an update to the data dictionary within TEMSIS to better match the National Trauma Data Standards
- Three hospitals went through and passed their trauma designation survey. Last report of NH trauma hospitals found that trauma patients were under triaged 3% of the time and over triaged 90% of the time. This data is not complete as not all

hospitals had returned data yet. The percentages are typical and in line with national averages.

- The committee is supporting HB 204, placing trauma kits within state owned occupied buildings.

-

The next meeting will be June 21, 2023

### **Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) - (Reported earlier in minutes)**

**Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report**

**Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) – He referred to the Director’s Report and stated that their next meeting will be this summer.**

**Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – Chief Conley submitted the following report:**

Here are highlights from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NHSBCRB:

- Public Hearing on:
  - Proposed amendments to the International Building Code: BD-21-01-23, BD-21-02-23, BD-21-03-23, BD-21-04-23, BD-21-05-23, BD-21-06-23, BD-21-07-23, BD-08-01-23, BD-21-09-23, BD-21-10-23
  - Proposed amendments to the International Existing Building Code: EX-21-01-23, EX-21-02-23, EX-21-03-23, EX-21-04-23, EX-21-05-23
- Board discussion and vote:
  - a. IBC report
  - b. IBC amendments
  - c. IEBC report
  - d. IEBC amendments
- Legislative Updates:
  - LSR 0271 – Ratifying codes. Now HB564 changes the date in 155-A that says all the amendments BCRB have reviewed and approved to November 4, 2022, to ratify the amendments through November. Bill and RSA says all of the amendments through “this date” are part of the State Building Code.
  - LSR 0806 – This is going to turn into a bill, but it is not changing anything in the building code at this time. FMO has been working with a group from the day care industry, both architect and user. It has to do with tiny house daycares to tiny office daycares. Size threshold do not align with 101.
  - HB111 – Establishes a committee to study electrical vehicle charging for residential renters.
  - HB173 – Relative to toilet facilities provided by restaurants. Eliminates DHHS requirements for separate bathroom fixtures in small restaurants

or any place that serves alcohol. Statute written in 1935 in a section titled tenement houses under RSA 155, not 155-A.

- HB558 – Was LSR 203. Talks about electric micro-grids.

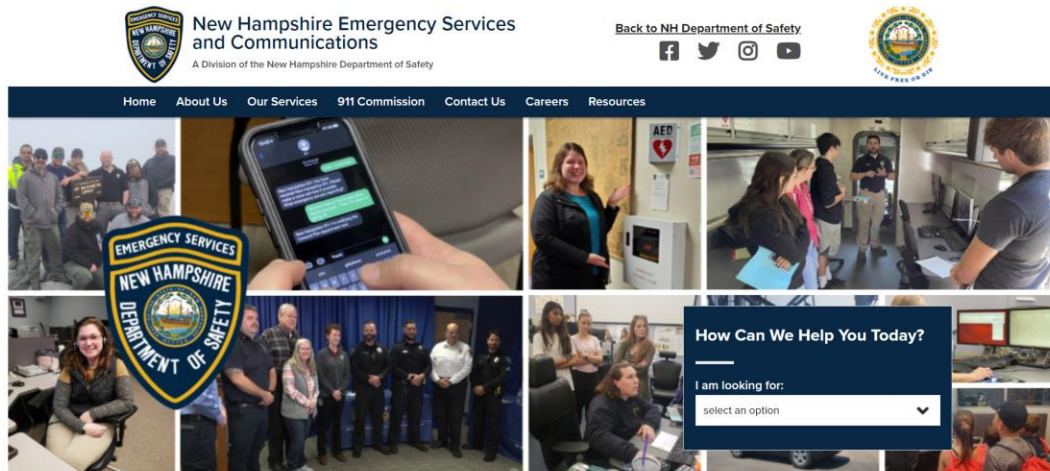
Next meeting is Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief)** – No report

**Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)** –

- Laconia Facility Update: Selection of the A&E firm has been made and the scope of services has been determined, G&C approval this month. ROUGH timeline pushes completion of the project into Summer of 2025;
- Staffing vacancies – down 13 in the PSAP (17%) ...However, we are continuing to maintain call answering standards and minimum coverage with existing staffing;
- Legislation Watch [MAJOR ITEMS]:
  - Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards (HB 376) (Unanimously voted OTP; moved to Consent Calendar) / Testified in support in the Senate Public Hearing;
  - Access to an individual's 911 call / Exemption from 91A (SB 183) (Motion OTP; moved to Consent Calendar); Amendment made to allow the “subject” of the call to have access as well...moved OTPA;
- E911 Commission Meeting scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Academy;
- Held an Open House w/LRMFA...T.C. Of the Year & NPSTW recognition
  - NHEDA Conference Awards (Peer Support and IT Support)
- Social Media: AED awareness/registry requirements;
- Public Outreach: “20 schools in 20 days”
- Also, working with DHHS on potentially mapping the Naloxone kits planned for distribution around the state (700+)

- CARES Registry is slowly rolling out, testing internally has begun as we populate the database with existing and newly registered individuals;
- Troop “F” Radio Enhancements scheduled for later this summer, while Troop “C” enhancements are underway – go live in June.
- New DESC / Division’s website has launched and can be found at [911.nh.gov](http://911.nh.gov)



Welcome to the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications  
(New Hampshire 911)

- 988 Coalition meetings continue – working on (3) trainings to be held in the North Country (TBD);
- Working with Pittsburg PD/SP/Colebrook Dispatch/CBP/F&G on the concerns at the Norther Border...Meeting scheduled at Pittsburg Fire on 5/23;
- Updated the Governor’s Task Force on School Safety with the status of our Division’s recommendations. Next meeting, May 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- Received 2 CRD’s from FirstNet/AT&T for immediate deploy ability around the state, utilizes Satellite back-haul, and provides a range of up to 10 miles;
- NASCAR Planning has started with HSEM;

- North Country Roundtable Discussion with Comm. Quinn, Dir. Cutting, Dir Buxton and FMO Toomey on 4/20;
- Met with the Team at “Headrest” (New Hampshire’s 988 crisis lifeline) to provide an overview of 911 operations and the collaboration with the 988 coalition in call handling;
- SIEC Meeting Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> Derry Municipal Complex.

### **NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas)**

- He gave a brief report as to what transpired at the last meeting.

### **NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison)**

- If you or members of your department are interested in what the NHIAC is and does, we have assembled a very brief program on NHIAC Awareness for the Fire Service. This presentation takes only a short time and is approved for one hour of EMS con-ed. We can deliver the program to your departments for free. If you are interested, please contact your Intelligence Liaison Officer James Heinz at [James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov](mailto:James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov).
- The NHIAC is an integrated, all-crimes/all hazards information sharing network that analyzes and disseminates information to engaged stakeholders from a variety of sources. If you are interested in receiving items from the NHIAC, contact ILO James Heinz at [James.B.heinz@dos.nh.gov](mailto:James.B.heinz@dos.nh.gov) and he will send you an Information Sharing Agreement

### **IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – (Report submitted in writing)**

IAFC Board Meeting May 20 & 21 at the IAFC Headquarters

2023 FRI – IAFC 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

August 16 – 18, 2023

Kansas City, MO

Registration Opened may 4<sup>th</sup>.

New England Division Hotel – Kansas City Marriott Downtown (co-host hotel)

***(note: Attendees can only access the FRI housing block once they have completed their registration. Hotel is shared with 3 other Divisions – suggest registering and holding room soon if you plan to attend)***

Technology Summit International

- December 5 - 7, 2023
- Irving Convention Center, Irving, TX

As technology advances, new practical applications are imagined to keep communities safer. Augmented reality that can scan a collapsed building or landslide to see cellphone pings of missing persons. Artificial intelligence that can predict disasters. These are just some technologies currently being developed, and Technology Summit International aims to bring the tech of the future to today's fire and emergency service professionals — helping them reduce risks to their communities and improve their ability to respond to emergencies.

### **New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Director Buxton) –**

- Planning continues for the annual conference
  - Information is currently being added to the website as it is finalized.
  - Currently educational opportunities are being finalized.
  - We are anticipating having formal agenda and information available soon for the membership.
- As a reminder NHAFC will need to elect a NH representative to replace me as I will term out at the conference.

### **Old Business -**

### **New Business –**

### **Good and Welfare –**

- Nick Mehuri reported that they will be sponsoring a Fall '23 Paramedic Program. An info session will be held May 23.
- Chief Sitar presented CFO certifications to Dep. Chief Eric Dubowik of Bedford; Bat. Chief Craig Lemire of Salem; Dep. Chief Fran Enos of Hudson and Ops Chief Frank Fraitzl of New Boston.
- Chief Sitar spoke of the golf tournament and asked for golfers, sponsors and gifts.
- Chief Thomas spoke of the two grants received for the annual hazmat seminar and also a class for electric (battery) vehicles.
- Chief Corey reported that there will
- 

Manchester Fire Chief Ryan Cashin spoke to the group describing their new cancer screening program for firefighters and answered member questions.

**Raffle** – The raffle was held. \$230 was collected and \$115 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chief Hunter and ED Lemire.

The meeting was adjourned at 1018 hrs.

Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.  
Executive Director, NHAFC

May 11, 2023